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Application Serial No.10/560,031

Responsive to Office Action dated 24 January 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the Claims in the subject Patent Application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A seat apparatus having a variable gap comprising:

a pair of seats that can move in ~~the~~ opposite directions;

a pair of moving plates each attached under the seats to move in ~~the~~ opposite directions;

a base for supporting the moving plates ~~so as to move in the~~ opposite directions;

a shaft rotatably attached on the upper side of the base;

a ~~cylindrical~~ gap controller attached in the middle of the shaft, having one narrow end and one wide end; having

a pair of guidance grooves ~~that have one end narrow and the other end~~ wide;

driving means attached on one end of the shaft for rotating the shaft;

a pair of connectors each having ~~the one end~~ ends coupled with the

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respective guidance groove ~~grooves~~ on the gap controller and the other ~~ends~~ end fixed on the respective moving plate ~~plates~~ at the corresponding position ~~positions~~ to the guidance groove ~~grooves~~ of the gap controller; and

guiding means for making the moving plates move along ~~on~~ the base ~~in the~~ axial direction,

wherein gaps between the pair of ~~the~~ seats and the pair of moving plates coupled with the guidance grooves through the a pair of connectors is adjusted by rotating the shaft clockwise/counterclockwise with the driving means.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The seat apparatus of claim 1, wherein the guiding means comprises a plurality of supporting blocks wherein ~~their one end is ends are~~ slidingly fixed underneath the ~~above~~ moving plates and the other end is ~~ends are~~ assembled to the ~~above~~ shaft.

Claim 3 (Original): The seat apparatus of claim 1, wherein the guiding means comprises a pair of roller grooves formed parallel to the direction of the shaft on the upper section of the base in order to coordinate the path of movement of the moving

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plates with the direction of the shaft, and a plurality of rollers attached under the moving plates to be inserted in the roller grooves for the movement.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The seat apparatus of claim 1, wherein the guiding means comprises the rails formed in the front and the back of the base and a plurality of rotating rollers attached on the moving plates at the corresponding positions to the rail for moving the rails.

Claim 5 (Original): The seat apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one seat either in front or back of the base.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The seat apparatus of claim 1, further comprising hinge units disposed on ~~located~~ the pair of seats ~~and~~ outside each end ~~ends~~ of the ~~above~~ moving plates to form hinge joints, and buffering means attached between the seats and the moving plates.

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Claim 7 (Original): The seat apparatus of claim 6, wherein the buffering means comprises either leaf springs or coil springs.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A seat apparatus having a variable gap comprising:
two pairs of seats moving plates that can move independently in the opposite directions;

two pairs of moving plates attached under the seats that move moves independently in the opposite directions;

a base for supporting the pairs of moving plates so as to move independently in the opposite directions;

two shafts rotatably attached on the upper section of the base;

two ~~eylindrieal~~ gap controllers, one being attached in the middle of each shaft the shafts, each gap controller having a pair of guidance grooves,

the gap controllers having that have one narrow end narrow and one wide the other end wide;

~~two a~~ driving means attached at one end ends of each shaft the shafts for rotating the each shaft;

two pairs of connectors each having the one end ends coupled with a the

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guidance ~~groove~~ ~~grooves~~ on the respective gap controller ~~controllers~~ and the other end ends attached on the respective moving plate ~~plates~~ at a position ~~the positions~~ corresponding to the guidance ~~groove~~ ~~grooves~~ of the respective gap controller ~~controllers~~; and

two guiding means that make the moving plates move along the base ~~axial~~ ~~direction~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The seat apparatus of claim 8, wherein each of two guiding devices comprises a plurality of supporting blocks wherein ~~their one~~ end of each ~~is~~ ~~ends~~ ~~are~~ slidingly fixed underneath the ~~above~~ moving plates and the other end is ~~ends~~ ~~are~~ assembled to the ~~above~~ shaft.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The seat apparatus of claim 8, wherein each of two guiding devices comprises a pair ~~two pairs~~ of roller grooves formed parallel to the path of movement of each moving plate and a plurality of rollers attached under each moving plate that are inserted in the roller grooves to slide the moving plates over the base.

RÉMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 24 January 2007. Responsive to the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 10 have been amended. Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-10 will be pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Drawings. Specifically, the reference character 91 in Fig. 7 is not disclosed in the Specification. Accordingly, Fig. 7 has been amended as described in the Amendments to the Drawings section, which begins on Page 2 of this paper, and a corrected Drawing sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) is attached in an Appendix following Page 15 of this paper.

The Examiner also objected to the Specification for various idiomatic and/or grammatical errors. Accordingly the Specification has been amended to correct those errors. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the detailed description of the guidance grooves contradicts what is shown in the drawings. The guidance grooves 27a are described as having both narrow and wide ends in the Specification but are shown with a constant width, the grooves being parallel with the sides of the gap controller 27 (Figs. 2B, 3B), which has a narrow end and a wide end. Accordingly, the Specification has been amended to more accurately describe the grooves.

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Additionally, the Examiner objected to Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8-10 for various idiomatic, grammatical and other informalities and indicated that Claims 1-10 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the Claim objections as set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, those Claims have been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention and to make the required corrections.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to pay any deficiencies in fees associated with the filing of this Reply, should there be any, from Deposit Account # 18-2011.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3/18/08

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